

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY GABORONE
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LONDON 06542

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY "OUR FOREIGN STAFF"
APPEARED ON PAGE 5 OF THE APRIL 22 EDITION OF THE
FINANCIAL TIMES.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE JOINT US-UK DECISION ON THE PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA IS UNLIKELY TO BE
MADE BEFORE EARLY MAY, WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND MR.
CYRUS VANCE, THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE. ARE TO DISCUSS
THE MATTER WITH BRITISH MINISTERS IN LONDON.

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ALTHOUGH LONDON AND WASHINGTON ARE KEEN TO MAINTAIN
THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY LAST WEEK'S VISIT TO AFRICA BY
DR. DAVID OWEN, THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, THERE IS
A GROWING REALIZATION THAT THE NEXT PHASE OF THE JOINT
STRATEGY ON RHODESIA MUST BE CAREFULLY PLANNED.
A NEW ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS TOWARDS EVOLVING THAT
STRATEGY WILL BEGIN TOMORROW WHEN MR. DAVID AARON.

DEPUTY HEAD OF THE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WILL ARRIVE IN LONDON FOR TALKS WITH DR. OWEN. IT IS THOUGHT THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN STATE DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, BEFORE THE ISSUE IS SUBMITTED TO MR. CARTER AND MR. JAMES CALLAGHZ, THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, WHEN THEY MEET IN LONDON BEFORE THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT ON MAY 7.

NEITHER THE U.S. NOR BRITAIN SEEMS TO SEE THIS WEEK'S STATEMENT BY THE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST PATRIOTIC FRONT, OBJECTING TO U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECTED CONFERENCE, AS A REJECTION OF THE NEW INITIATIVE. BUT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN ROLES MORE PRECISELY, AND HOLD ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

MEANWHILE, DR. OWEN IS THINKING OF OPENING A CONFERENCE OFFICE IN SALISBURY, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY COORDINATE TECHNICAL AND LEGAL, AS WELL AS POLITICAL. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SMITH REGIME AND THOSE NATIONALISTS STILL BASED IN RHODESIA.

BUT, ALTHOUGH THIS MAKES ADMINISTRATIVE SENSE IF NEGOTIATIONS GET UNDER WAY, MR. SMITH MIGHT WELL INTERPRET THE MOVE AS A BRITISH OR U.S. RECOGNITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT. NATIONALIST OBJECTIONS WOULD FOLLOW.
END TEXT

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